

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

OPENING

OF THE

YANG-TZE-KIANG RIVER

TO

FOREIGN TRADE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1861.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

LIST OF PAPERS.

No.					Page
1.	The Earl of Elgin to Lord J. Russell	January	21, 1861	1	
	Three Inclosures.				
2.	The Earl of Elgin to Lord J. Russell	April	15, —	4	
	One Inclosure.				
3.	The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond	March	30, —	4	
	One Inclosure.				
4.	The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond	April	26, —	5	
	One Inclosure.				
5.	The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond	May	13, —	6	
	Five Inclosures.				
6.	The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond	May	28, —	9	
	Thirteen Inclosures.				
7.	Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty	May	30, —	33	

Correspondence respecting the Opening of the Yang-tze-kiang River to Foreign Trade.

No. 1.

The Earl of Elgin to Lord J. Russell.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord,

Hong Kong, January 21, 1861.

IN my despatch to your Lordship of the 6th ultimo,* written from Shanghai, I inclosed the copy of a correspondence which passed, before I left Tien-tsin, between Mr. Bruce and the Prince of Kung, on the subject of the opening up of the River Yang-tze to trade under a provisional arrangement; and I informed your Lordship that I was then engaged in considering with some of the officers of the Imperial Customs, and of the leading merchants at Shanghai, the conditions under which it would be most expedient and practicable to give effect to that arrangement.

I have now the honour to inclose the copy of a communication which I have addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope upon this subject, requesting him to lend me his assistance towards the establishment of an understanding with the rebel leaders at Nanking, which may secure British vessels passing up or down the river against the risk of being molested or interfered with by persons acting under orders from them; and when such an understanding shall have been established, to take measures for placing at Kiukiang and Hangkow the Consuls named by Mr. Bruce for these posts.

I have reason to believe that it is Admiral Hope's intention to proceed in person upon this mission—a plan which, if it be carried out, is, I need hardly say, eminently well fitted to insure its success. He will be accompanied by Mr. Parkes, to whom I have addressed the letter of instructions of which a copy is inclosed herewith. In explanation of its terms, I may mention that Mr. Parkes at once agreed to my proposal that he should accompany the Admiral on a footing similar to that on which he has stood towards me during the past few months, although I thought it right to tell him that the Admiral had, with much consideration, informed me that he would not have objected if I had deemed it expedient to send him in the capacity of Diplomatic Agent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

The Earl of Elgin to Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope.

Sir,

Hong Kong, January 20, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, the copy of a letter addressed some weeks ago by Mr. Bruce to the Prince of Kung, on the subject of the opening of the River Yang-tze to British trade, under a provisional arrangement; and a translation of the Prince's reply, who acceded, as you will observe, to Mr. Bruce's proposal.

I find on communication with the merchants, both at this place and Shanghai, that there is a very general desire that this arrangement should be carried into effect at the earliest practicable period, as, independently of the general benefit

* See Correspondence already laid before Parliament.

which the opening up of that great water-route is likely to confer upon trade, special advantages are expected to accrue from it at this time, when the transport by land of commodities to and from the principal producing and consuming districts of the interior and the coast is rendered unusually costly and precarious by the disturbed condition of the country.

It is obvious, however, that before British vessels can navigate the river in safety, some understanding must be arrived at with the rebels, who are believed to be in possession of certain points upon it. It is with the view of obtaining your assistance towards the accomplishment of this object, that I now address myself to your Excellency.

Nothing, I am confident, would so surely tend to the establishment of such an understanding on a satisfactory basis as your Excellency's own presence and authority, if your other engagements should permit of your proceeding up the river in person. At any rate I would venture to suggest that a naval force sufficiently large to inspire respect should present itself before Nanking, and that the rebel authorities should be informed that we do not appear as enemies, or with the intention of taking part in the civil war now raging in China, but that we require from them some sufficient assurance that British vessels proceeding up or down the river for trading purposes shall not be interfered with or subjected to molestation, by persons acting under their orders.

From the temper which the rebel leaders have manifested of late, I do not think it probable that they will decline to give an assurance to the effect above stated; and if they should refuse to do so, it will be for your Excellency to determine what measures it will be expedient to adopt to secure for Her Majesty's subjects the enjoyment of a privilege which they hold from the lawful Government of the country, and are therefore clearly entitled to exercise. If, however, on the contrary, the reply which you receive from them should be satisfactory, I trust that it will be in your power to cause the gentlemen who have been appointed by Mr. Bruce to the situation of Consul at Kiu-kiang and Hankow to be conveyed at once to their respective destinations.

I have informed Mr. Parkes of the very considerate manner in which your Excellency met the suggestion that he should accompany you on this expedition, and he will be in readiness to attend whenever you shall require him to do so. Mr. Parkes will collect all the information respecting the political and commercial condition and prospects of the country visited by your Excellency, which will, in his opinion, be useful to Mr. Bruce, and he will be at hand to assist you in communicating with the rebel chiefs and the Imperial authorities, or in any other way in which his services may be required.

As the prospect of the opening up of the Yang-tsze necessarily causes considerable interest among the members of the mercantile community, I think that it may tend to quiet the public mind, and to check premature and irregular trading ventures on the river, if some information be given, on authority, of the steps which are actually being taken for the purpose of effecting this object. I have accordingly drawn up, with this view, a proclamation which I inclose herewith under flying seal, to the Editor of the official Gazette at Shanghae. Should your Excellency be of opinion that the publication of this proclamation would be in any way inconvenient to you, you are quite at liberty to withhold it; but if, on the contrary, you see no objection to its being issued, I shall feel obliged to your transmitting it to its address.

I also inclose a copy of the letter of instructions which I have addressed to Mr. Parkes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Notification.

THE Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.T., G.C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Special Ambassador in China, &c., &c., hereby makes it known to Her Majesty's subjects in China that Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary the Honourable F. W. A. Bruce and the Imperial Commissioner the Prince of Kung have concluded an arrangement for opening

to British trade, at the earliest practicable period, two ports on the Yang-tze river above Chin-kiang.

His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-chief has been requested to adopt such measures as he may deem necessary in order to enable Her Majesty's subjects to take advantage of the privilege conferred on British shipping by the arrangement in question, and as soon as the object which he has in view shall have been attained, notice will be given of the regulations under which trade on the river above Chin-kiang will be conducted.

The Earl of Elgin thinks, however, that it may be a convenience to Her Majesty's subjects in China if he apprizes them, at this early date, that the following are the conditions on which those regulations will be framed.

Tonnage dues as well as duties, whether of import or export, due on the cargoes of vessels proceeding up or down the river will be payable at Shanghai or Chin-kiang; and traffic in arms or ammunition will be prohibited under severe penalties.

(Signed)

ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

The Earl of Elgin to Mr. Parkes.

Sir,

Hong Kong, January 19, 1861.

I HAVE to request that you will hold yourself in readiness to accompany Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, who is about to proceed up the Yang-tze to Han-kow with the view of opening the river up to that point to British trade.

In consequence of the disorganised condition of the country through which it passes, great interest and importance attaches to the expedition which his Excellency is about to undertake, and in withdrawing you for the time from your duties at Canton in order that you may join it, Mr. Bruce gives you a proof of confidence which I venture to think is thoroughly well-deserved.

The supreme direction of all matters connected with the expedition will of course rest with the Commander-in-chief, and I am sure that you will always be ready to render to his Excellency that intelligent and zealous assistance which I have invariably received from you when you have stood in a somewhat similar position to myself.

It is not possible to anticipate with certainty the reply which the rebel leaders may give to the communication which the Admiral is about to make to them, although there is, I think, reason to hope that they will not receive it in an unfriendly spirit; nor, if it were possible, would it be necessary that I should attempt to do so on the present occasion, as you are already fully acquainted with the views that I entertain respecting the policy which it is expedient to adopt towards them, and the objects which we ought to endeavour to accomplish under the provisional arrangement for opening up the Yang-tze which has been entered into by Mr. Bruce and Prince Kung. You are aware that it is my desire that the privilege thereby acquired for British vessels should not in practice be limited to a permission to trade at certain specific ports, but that it should, if possible, be carried out in such a manner as to throw open to them the general coasting trade of the river, and that I consider it to be very important to this end—

1. That attempts on the part of foreigners to introduce into the disturbed districts munitions of war and recruits should be vigorously repressed.

2. That the dues of the Chinese Government on foreign trade, both inwards and outwards, should be collected at Chin-kiang or Shanghai.

3. That we should maintain an attitude of strict neutrality between the Imperial Government and the rebels.

In the correspondence which has passed between Mr. Bruce and the Prince of Kung on this subject, Kiu-kiang is named as one of the places at which a British Consul is to be established. You will, however, when on the spot, have to consider whether Koo-kow, at the entrance of the channel leading from the Yang-tze to the Poyang lake, be not, with a view to the general interests of trade, the more eligible position for a Consul. Should you, on examination, come to the conclusion that such is the case, I am confident that Mr. Bruce will not disapprove, if, with the Admiral's concurrence, and the consent of the Chinese authorities, you establish him there instead of at Kiu-kiang.

Besides rendering to the Admiral every assistance in your power, it will be your duty to collect for Mr. Bruce such information respecting the political and commercial condition and prospects of the districts through which you pass as may, in your opinion, be useful to his Excellency.

I trust that in the performance of the service which these instructions require you to undertake, you will have opportunities of adding to the claims which you have already established to the good opinion and consideration of those who represent Her Majesty's Government in China.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

No. 2.

The Earl of Elgin to Lord J. Russell.—(Received April 15.)

My Lord,

London, April 15, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a communication which I have received from Vice-Admiral Hope, replying to my letter to him of the 20th of January last, the copy of which was transmitted in my despatch to your Lordship of the 21st of January last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope to the Earl of Elgin.

My Lord,

"Centaur," Shanghai, January 30, 1861.

IN reply to your letter of the 20th instant, with its several inclosures, communicating to me your desire that the Yang-tze should be opened to British trade as speedily as may prove practicable, I beg to acquaint your Excellency that I proceed up the river for this purpose as soon as I am joined by Mr. Parkes from Hong Kong, and that in effecting this object I shall keep in view those principles which your Lordship has pointed out as being the most desirable on which to base the requisite arrangements.

The Proclamation acquainting Her Majesty's subjects in China with your Excellency's intentions will be transmitted to the editor of the "Shanghai Gazette" for immediate publication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HOPE.

No. 3.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 2.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 30, 1861.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Lord John Russell, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, dated the 2nd of February last, transmitting a copy of a correspondence addressed to him by the Earl of Elgin respecting the provisional opening of the Yang-tze to British trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. G. ROMANE.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

My Lord,

"Centaur," Shanghai, February 2, 1861.

YOU will be pleased to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copy of a correspondence addressed to me by the Earl of Elgin relative to the provisional opening of the Yang-tze river to British trade.* I propose to leave Shanghai for this purpose immediately on the arrival of Mr. Parkes from Canton, with the vessels noted in the margin,† and the "Chesapeake" and "Scout" will remain in reserve here, the delay which vessels of their heavy draft would occasion rendering it inexpedient that they should go up unless their presence proves necessary, as well as the consideration that vessels of such force would impart to the expedition a belligerent aspect, which I think it very desirable to avoid.

At Hankow and the other two open ports I propose to station a dispatch-vessel and a gun-boat respectively, in support of the Consular authorities, and at Nanking the "Centaur," with the view of insuring that the arrangements entered into with the Tae-pings for the navigation of the river is duly carried out, with a gun-boat attached to her for the purpose of keeping it clear of marauders, and the "Cowper" for that of maintaining the communication up and down.

When the river is thoroughly opened to trade, and the steamers which the mercantile houses here intend to place upon it are at work, I should hope that this force may be considerably reduced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HOPE.

No. 4.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 27.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 26, 1861.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an extract from a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope dated the 25th February last, reporting his proceedings in the Yang-tze river, and generally on the state of affairs in China.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMANE.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Coromandel," in the Yang-tze, 70 miles from Woo-sung,
February 25, 1861.

My Lord,

YOU will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I left Woo-sung on the 9th instant, and after some detention occasioned by the grounding of the "Centaur" in a difficult part of the river, I arrived at Nanking on the 20th, after having located the Consul at Ching-keang-foo on my way up.

From the communications I held with the chief authorities of the Tae-pings, I have reason to expect that every point necessary for the unmolested passage of British vessels up the Yang-tze will be readily granted, but I have refrained from coming to any distinct arrangement on the subject until I should have the assistance of Mr. Parkes.

On my return down the river for the purpose of taking up the "Centaur,"

* See Inclosures in No. 1.

† "Centaur," "Rocket" (will not go higher than Nanking), "Snake," "Bouncer," "Havoc," "Banterer," "Coromandel," "Cowper," "Attalante," "Waterman," to carry coals,

I was joined by Mr. Parkes, whom I forwarded to Nanking, where he will put matters in train, and wait my arrival.

I propose to-morrow to proceed up the river, and foresee no difficulty in completing the arrangements for opening the Yang-tze detailed in my letter of the 2nd instant.

The "Furious" having arrived at Shanghae from the Gulf of Pechelee, will proceed to England as soon as refitted for the voyage at Hong Kong. From Captain Jones' report, which shall be forwarded for their Lordships' information when I have it *in extenso*, it is evident that communication with Tien-tsin by the Peiho is impracticable during the winter. A regular postal communication, however, has been established by Che-foo, and the mails are now conveyed there alternately by an English and French vessel of war.

Canton and the commercial ports are in a state of tranquillity.

From Singapore Sir Robert McClure acquaints me that the "Nimrod" having returned from Brunei and relieved the "Esk," he was on the point of leaving for England in that ship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HOPE.

No. 5.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received May 14.)

Sir,

Admiralty, May 13, 1861.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter dated the 8th March, from Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, with copies of its inclosures, relating to his proceedings up the Yang-tze river, the provisional regulations he has made for British trade there, and his communication with the Tae-pings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE,

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

My Lord,

"Coromandel," Kiu-kiang, March 8, 1861.

YOU will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that since the date of my last communication I have ascended the Yang-tze to this point, touching at Chin-kiang-foo, Nanking, and Hukau, and that the vessels noted in the margin* have been stationed as therein shown. To-morrow I propose to go on to Hankow, where I shall leave the "Snake," and if coal can be procured there shall proceed as much further up the river as time and circumstances will permit, it being my intention to return to Shanghae by the end of the month.

Consuls have been placed at Chin-kiang-foo and Kiu-kiang; a temporary arrangement will be made at Hankow till the arrival of the Consul appointed to that port; and a notification of the opening of the rivers to British trade will be forwarded to Shanghae by the earliest opportunity.

I forward for their Lordships' information a copy of the Provisional Regulations adopted for this purpose, and of a communication made by my direction to the Tae-ping authorities at Nanking, together with their replies to the several points therein specified, showing the footing on which I propose to place the intercourse with them.

On my return to Shanghae, I hope to transmit to their Lordships a Report in some detail of the state of the Tae-ping movement in this part of China; but, as at present informed, I can regard it in no other light than that of an organised band of robbers, who have been in possession for some years of a district of

* "Banterer," at Chin-kiang-foo; "Centaur," "Bouncer," at Nanking; "Havoc," at Kiu-kiang; "Attalante," at Hukau, to survey Poyang lake, till my return.

country extending along the south bank of the river from Nanking on the east, to Nganking on the west, in length about 200 miles and in breadth 100, from whence, as occasion offers or necessity compels, they issue forth for the purpose of plundering such towns as they can capture, and collecting such supplies of food as they require; their policy being to convert the towns they hold into mere garrisons, excluding the general population not essential to their wants, and to destroy those of which they do not retain possession, in order to render them useless to the Imperial Government.

Acquainted, to a certain extent, with the doctrines of Christianity and with scriptural language, they have adopted a phraseology derived from both, but there is no symptom that any tenet they profess, other than that of enmity to image worship and the Tartar Dynasty, exercises any influence on their conduct; and the entire absence of all traffic on that portion of the river in their possession, and the paucity of population on its banks, in marked contrast to that held by the Imperial Government, affords ample evidence of the destructive tendency of their policy. It being clear, therefore, that no intercourse can be held with them under the sanction of Her Majesty's Minister, it is my intention to take it under my own supervision, pending the decision of their Lordships; the principle I shall adopt being, that in the district of country of which they hold possession, the Tae-ping authorities must be regarded as those of the *de facto* Government, and must be dealt with accordingly; and this principle being likely to lead to the payment of double duties on all trade conducted at places in their possession, I am desirous of definite instructions on the subject.

I shall, however, be careful to impress upon the authorities at Nanking that all arrangements I may make with them are provisional, and subject to alteration, until the sanction of their Lordships shall have been obtained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HOPE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Provisional Regulations for British Trade in the Yang-tze.

[See Inclosure 3 in No. 6.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

Orders addressed to Commander Aplin.

Memo.

"Coromandel," Nanking, March 1, 1861.

YOU are, in company with Mr. Parkes, to wait on the chief authorities of the Tae-pings, for the purpose of making the following communication, leaving a copy with them should they wish you to do so, and noting their answers in the margin for my information.

(Signed) J. HOPE,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

Commander Aplin,

Her Majesty's ship "Centaur," Nanking.

Inclosure 4 in No. 5.

Communication made by Commander Aplin to the Tae-ping Authorities at Nanking, with their Replies.

Commander Aplin's Communication.

Reply of the Tae-ping Authorities.

I AM directed by the Commander-in-chief of the naval forces of Her Majesty the Queen of England in China to acquaint you—

Commander Aplin's Communication.

1. That by the recent arrangements at Peking, the right has been conceded to British ships of navigating the River Yang-tze, for the purpose of trade, immediately, and that he has stationed me, with the "Centaur," at Nanking, in order that they may exercise that right with entire freedom to themselves, and without molestation to others.

2. That in order to effect this object, every British vessel passing Nanking will communicate with and receive a pass from me, a copy of which will be sent for your information to whomsoever you may think proper to name for the purpose, and that the Commander-in-chief expects you will order all persons acting under your authority to be instructed duly to respect my passes, and not to interfere with the vessels carrying them.

3. That in these passes the vessel will be fully described. The master will be directed invariably to carry his flag, and will be ordered not to use his guns or other arms except in self-defence, and will be duly informed of the regulations under which he may go on shore, or conduct trade at the several places in your possession.

4. That every vessel which anchors here for the purpose of remaining, will be duly notified to you, and receive a similar pass.

5. That the Commander-in-chief has seen the letter written by Mung, Prince of Tsan, and Sin, Prince of Chang, and that the request contained therein, that all persons wishing to enter the city from British ships shall receive directions to notify the same to the Superintendent of Customs, and that no person shall visit their armed encampments, shall be duly attended to.

6. That the Commander-in-chief further expects that if your forces attack and take the following places, viz., Chin-kiang, Kiukiang, Hankow, or any others in the river at which British subjects may be settled or trading, all such British subjects will be unmolested both in their persons and property. That, on the other hand, the commanders of the vessels of war stationed there will receive directions in no way whatever to interfere in the hostilities which may be going on, except for the purpose of protecting their countrymen, should it be necessary to do so.

7. If British subjects commit any offence ashore, they are not to be

Reply of the Tae-ping Authorities.

1. Did not object to "Centaur" being stationed at Nanking, if only here for the reason assigned.

2. Agreed to, with the understanding that vessels coming to Nanking are not to approach nearer than the Ping-shan Pagoda at night.

The copy of the pass to be sent to the Customs.

3. Agreed to.

4. Agreed to.

5. Observed that it was good.

6. They will respect British persons and property; and that should they determine on attacking any of these places, official notice will be given us, if possible.

7. Agreed to

*Commander Aplin's Communication.**Reply of the Tae-ping Authorities.*

punished by the Tae-ping authorities, but are to be made prisoners, and sent on board the "Centaur," with a full statement of the offence they have committed, which shall be duly dealt with according to the British law. Should a Chinese commit an offence on board any British ship, he will in the same manner be sent to the authorities ashore for punishment.

8. I am directed distinctly to acquaint you that I am in no degree responsible for the conduct of any other vessels except those which are British; and that, as far as I am concerned, you can deal with all others in any way you may think proper.

8. Could not expect us to be responsible for any but our own.

Inclosure 5 in No. 5.

Pass granted to Mr. [A.B.], Master of the British [Vessel or Steamer C.D., Barque] Rigged, Tonnage [400], Guns [3], Crew [20].

YOUR vessel is permitted to navigate the river for the purposes of trade, and on presenting this pass to any of the Tae-ping authorities, you will not be interfered with by them.

2. You are permitted to hold intercourse with the shore or to trade only under such regulations as their authorities shall think proper to prescribe, subject to my approval; and wherever a British vessel of war is stationed you are not to communicate with the shore except with the sanction of her commander.

3. You are to be careful that your English red ensign is always hoisted.

4. You are not to use your guns or arms except in self-defence, for which I shall hold you personally responsible, and you are not to visit any armed encampment of the Tae-pings.

5. You are to be careful that when the shore is visited either by yourself, your officers or crew, such conduct is to be observed as will avoid giving the slightest offence to the inhabitants.

(Signed) [E. F.],
Senior Naval Officer at Nanking.

No. 6.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received May 29.)

Sir,

Admiralty, May 28, 1861.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, dated the 6th April, reporting his proceedings up the Yang-tze-kiang, and the opening of the river to British trade; also relating to the Tae-ping rebels, and bearing favourable testimony to the zeal and ability with which he has been aided by Mr. Parkes in communicating with the Chinese.

The inclosures to Sir James Hope's letter are forwarded in original, and it is requested that they may be returned to this Department as soon as convenient.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMANE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

My Lord,

"Coromandel," at Shanghai, April 6, 1861.

YOU will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that, in accordance with the intention expressed in my letter of the 8th ultimo, I proceeded to Hang-kow, and from thence to Yoh-chow, at the entrance of the Tung-ting Lake, 160 miles higher up the river, and returned here on the 30th ultimo, leaving the "Snake" stationed at Hang-kow, where Commander Harvey will perform such Consular duties as are within his competence, until the arrival of the Consul at his post, who will proceed there shortly in the "Attalante."

At Yoh-chow a party, consisting of the gentlemen named in the margin,* left me for the purpose of proceeding to India by Thibet; and having received applications from various parties at Shanghai, who were interested in the trade of the Yang-tze-kiang, to accompany me to Hang-kow, I permitted a certain number to proceed there in the "Cowper" as a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce, whose report I inclose for their Lordships' information.

As soon as I ascertained that the presence of a larger force would not be requisite at Nanking, I ordered the "Chesapeake" to Hong Kong, where she arrived on the 6th ultimo to refit, going into dock if it should prove requisite.

Being desirous of personal communication with Brigadier Staveley at Tien-tsin, and possibly with Mr. Bruce at Peking, before I return south, I propose to hoist my flag in the "Scout," and to proceed to the Peiho for that purpose, with the intention of returning to Hong Kong towards the middle or end of May, when I expect to find the "Impérieuse" ready to receive my flag, and the "Chesapeake" prepared to proceed to England with Rear-Admiral Jones.

I forward, for their Lordships' information, the paper noted in the margin,† from which they will observe that the Yang-tze-kiang is declared open to British trade, and that such arrangements as depend upon the Navy and Consular Departments are completed; but I much fear that the disorganized state of the country, consequent upon the rebel movement, will go far to frustrate for the present, those hopes which have been entertained of a lucrative trade resulting from this measure.

Although large bodies of the rebels are stated to be, and probably are, over-running the country in different directions,‡ it is very open to question whether they are in sufficient strength to eject the Imperial Government, and effect a change of dynasty, while on the other hand no reasonable prospect exists of the Imperial Government being able to suppress the rebellion; and a period of anarchy, indefinite in duration, appears likely to ensue, in which the commercial towns of the empire will be destroyed, and its most productive provinces laid waste.§

For this state of things, so destructive to foreign trade, I see no remedy except the recognition by both parties, if practicable, of the neutrality of the Consular ports, which would then become places of security in which the Chinese merchants and capitalists could take refuge, of their eagerness to do which, the fabulous sums which they are now giving for land in the British Settlement at Shanghai is a sufficient proof.|| Established in safety in the Consular ports,* the ingenuity of the Chinese would not fail to devise modes by which the produce of the country would be brought there in defiance of every obstacle, a remarkable instance of which is to be found in Mr. Forrest's report of the mode in which trade is conducted at present between Shanghai and Soo-chow, the latter being in the possession of the rebels.

The readiness with which the Chinese authorities would not fail to throw

* Major Sarel, 17th Lancers; Captain Blakiston, R.A.; Dr. Barton, civilian; Mr. Scherewsky, Interpreter.

† Notification of the opening of the Yang-tze.

‡ Vide Captain Aplin's Report.

§ For character of the rebel movement, refer to Reports by Messrs. Parkes and Forrest, Inclosures 5, 6, and 7.

|| A piece of land (two acres) purchased four years ago for 500 taels can now be sold for 6,000 taels. Another piece (one-third of an acre), bought five years ago for 200 taels, was, three days since, sold by auction at 1,210 taels, and can now be sold for 1,500 taels. There being 3 taels to the pound sterling nearly.

all the responsibility and expense of protecting the Consular ports on foreigners, if they could entrap them into undertaking their defence, would render much caution necessary in adopting such a system as I have described, and I am not prepared to make any distinct proposition for the purpose until after consultation with Her Majesty's Minister, Mr. Bruce.

I considered, however, that it might not be inexpedient to make a first step towards it by requiring from the Rebel Government at Nanking an engagement that their troops should not approach within thirty miles of Shanghai and Woo-sung, and the accompanying report from Commander Aplin shows that to some extent this object has been accomplished.

I cannot conclude without expressing the conviction that to Mr. Parkes' thorough knowledge of the language and habits of the Chinese, and to the unwearied zeal with which his aid was on all occasions placed at my disposition, I owe such success as may have attended my communications with the Chinese, whether Imperialists or Tae-pings.

Commander Ward of the "Actæon" accompanied me for the purpose of piloting the expedition, of rectifying his previous survey between Nanking and Hankow, and of surveying such portion of the river above Hankow as might be visited.

These two latter objects were fully accomplished, and I feel much pleasure in bearing testimony to the accuracy of his previous survey, and the ability with which he piloted the squadron.

By the next mail I shall forward a survey of the Poyang lake, by Mr. Edward Swain, late master of the "Roebuck," and now in command of the "Attalante," which was executed during my absence at Hankow, and which is highly creditable to him.

The banks of the river having altered very considerably since it was surveyed in 1842, for a distance of about sixty miles above Woo-sung, I directed that portion of the river to be re-surveyed, and it will be very shortly completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HOPE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Report of the Deputation appointed by the British Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai, on the Commercial Capabilities of Ports and Places on the Yang-tze-kiang, visited by the Expedition under Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope, K.C.B., in February and March 1861.

Sir,

Shanghai, March 30, 1861.

WE have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, our Report on the voyage which we have just completed up the Yang-tze river as far as Hankow, dividing our remarks under separate heads.

1. *The navigation of the Yang-tze.*—The chief difficulties are below Nanking, and the most critical part of the river is the Lan-shan crossing, forty-two miles from Woo-sung, where the channel is crossed from the southern to the northern side of the broad bed of the river. A small staff of permanent pilots will, probably, be required for this portion of it. Beyond Nanking it is quite possible to make the way up to Hankow by aid of the chart and sailing directions alone; but as strangers, especially such as are unused to river navigation, would be very likely to fall into mistakes, we would recommend that pilots should be taken by masters of vessels until they shall have made themselves personally acquainted with the land-marks.

At this season the current is moderate. It has not been found to exceed at any place three and a-half knots an hour, and the average is about two. The waters, however, begin to rise early in the year, and by July or August an immense extent of land about Hankow is flooded until September or October, and the depth of the river is increased, certainly by as much as 20 feet, and occasionally by 25 to 30 feet above the level in December, when it is at its lowest.

We have had no means of obtaining any specific information regarding the effect of this rise on the force of the current, but from all we can hear, there is

no season in which junks cannot ascend, aided, no doubt, by the favourable winds which blow steadily during the summer.

Local pilots might be of essential service in taking vessels through channels where sufficient water might be found, without meeting the full force of the stream.

The distances to the chief places are, to—

Chin-kiang	..	..	..	138½	nautical miles.
Nanking	..	..	435	182	” ”
Kiu-kiang	..	..	251	433	” ”
Hankow	..	..	137	570	” ”
Yoh-chow	..	..	157	727	” ”

2. *Chin-kiang*.—Trade at this place is completely at a stand-still, the city only being in the hands of the Imperial Government, the rebels ranging over the country on either side of the river. The Grand Canal also is obstructed in its southern course, but to the northwards, as far as the old bed of the Yellow river, it seems to be open to commerce, and is to be entered from Itching, Kwa-chow, opposite to, and a large creek leading directly to Sin-new-miow, below Chin-kiang.

The rich country to the eastward of this portion of the canal, and traversed by its branches, is still undisturbed, and the security afforded by the British flag may enable dealers to come to this port who could not venture on the longer voyage to Shanghai.

We append a statement of market quotations obtained here, which is significant both as showing the nature of the demand, which is from the camp only, and that prices here and at Nanking are quoted the same. There is reported to be a place on the river between the two, which is practically neutral ground for such traffic.

3. *Nanking*.—There seems no prospect for the development of commerce with this city, or the districts controlled by it, while under its present rulers. The people are enslaved. The soldiery unpaid, but habituated to plunder, are little likely to engage in any industrial pursuits. The rulers, so far from being able to govern the country, do not even admit within the walls of their capital the shopkeepers necessary for the supply of the daily wants of the residents.

The proclamations which occasionally appear, apparently designed to encourage trade, must be read with regard to this state of affairs. Their design can at present extend no further than to bring in provisions at cheaper rates, or supply a market for the soldiery, which, commercially speaking, can only be on a very small scale.

It remains to be seen how far these evils can be mitigated by foreign influence. The present design of the Tae-pings seems to be to seize all places where British Settlements have been made, to enforce the recognition of their pretensions.

4. *Kiu-kiang and Hu-kow*.—Both these places were visited and examined with regard to their capacities for the site of the second new port on the Yang-tze. The latter is just at the mouth of the Poyang Lake, but the place is small, and the steepness of the hills on which it is built gives no space for the requirements of a trading depôt, while on the opposite shore the alluvial soil is liable to be flooded in the summer. It is not, nor has it ever been, a place of trade.

Kiu-kiang has always been a port of some consequence, though even before it was devastated by the rebels it was somewhat on the decline. Both equally command, practically, the navigation of the Poyang Lake.

Into this lake fall numerous navigable streams running through the rich Black-Tea districts to the westward; the Rivers Fu and Kan, which run through Kiang-si from the neighbourhood of the Mei-ling Pass, the great high-road to Canton; and, what, under existing circumstances, is more important than all, the rivers flowing from the eastward are connected by canals with the creeks traversing Fy-chow, Moyune, and, in short, the whole of the Green-Tea districts, which are thus as accessible from this lake as from Soo-chow and Shanghai. It is, in short, a centre of a most extensive and important network of river-and-canal communication, brought to a very high state of perfection by the Chinese in more prosperous times.

The chief commercial city on it is Woo-chow (or Woo-chin), on the western

side. The dealers speak of this as of another Soo-chow, and those who visited it describe it as exhibiting every sign of prosperity. Nan-chang, the provincial capital, is not spoken of as a place of much importance.

The partial running survey of the lake shows that it is generally shallow, but the bed of the river running through it is sufficiently deep, but so narrow that it would not be easy to navigate in vessels of any size.

As regards the goods likely to be in demand here, we need only say that all that the green-tea dealers have hitherto taken from Shanghai they would equally be able to take from Kiu-kiang, were these districts approached from the latter instead of the former port. The dealers speak very confidently of being able to bring teas to Kiu-kiang, notwithstanding the presence of the rebels in the districts, saying that they "know the roads;" and it is obviously very unlikely that an irregular force could cut off communication with places to be approached from so many different directions, though we have most ample testimony that the presence of these rebels most grievously impoverishes and depopulates the districts which are subjected to their visitations.

The following distances have been given to us:—

		<i>Li.</i>		<i>Li.</i>
From Kiu-kiang to Ning-chow, by land,		300	—by water,	500
" "	Fy-chow	"		500
" "	Moyune	"		480
" "	Ting-kai	"		570
" "	Tae-ping	"		600

But by water, through rivers and canals, the distance to all is said to be about the same, viz., about 1,000 *li*. Three *li* are nearly equal to an English mile.

If peace were restored throughout the country, this port would be of less importance, but will always be useful and desirable, securing as it would do, to a great extent, a competition between native boats and foreign vessels for the conveyance of tea to Shanghai, and further affording a check on attempts to enforce an extortionate levy of customs duties in the interior, by the choice of routes which would be kept open to foreign settlements.

We append a list of prices, which may be found of some interest, but can afford no criterion of what they may be when trade is fairly opened. The exchange is in favour of imports; 100 taels of sycee in Kiu-kiang being equal to 102 Shanghai taels. The tael was worth 1,640 cash; Mexican dollars did not pass freely at 1,000 cash each.

Coal of good quality is said to be procured near Woo-chow, where it is largely used by distillers and others who have large factories in and near the city.

Weights appear to be the same as those used in Shanghai and Canton.

There was a small consumption of silk in the neighbourhood, for the manufacture of braid for local use. The supply was drawn from Hu-chow.

5. *Towns and places on the river.*—Regarding these we had no opportunity of obtaining reliable and specific information. Speaking generally, from Chin-kiang to Ngan-king, where the rebels are now being besieged by the Imperial troops, we saw everywhere traces of misery and destruction; few, if any, of prosperity. Beyond this, signs of improvement gradually began to appear, and the towns marked on the chart showed indications of activity and revival, which warranted the expectation of a large demand from local dealers in support of our trade in the larger depôts. Numerous well-built junks were seen above Kiu-kiang.

6. *Hankow.*—We shall proceed to lay before you the imperfect results of our investigations in this most important emporium of Central China.

The Poyang lake, as we have already shown, is the centre of one extensive system of water-communication which has always been connected with Shanghai. Hankow is the head of another and probably larger system of communication by river and land routes, both up the Yang-tze and its tributaries, including those running into the Tung-ting lake, to which more special reference is made hereafter, and up the River Han (called also Seyang), from the city of that name about 250 miles up its course, which is the port of transshipment on the route to Tien-tsin and Peking.

The town of Hankow itself is situated on an alluvial plain, which though more broken by isolated ranges of hills, seems hardly less extensive than that

around Shanghae, and which is accessible in numerous directions by the branches and tributaries of the Great River. The appearance of the town was not merely that of a wealthy place of residence, but we saw ample proofs that it actually was, as it has generally been supposed to be, the great commercial centre of the Chinese Empire.

Woo-chang-foo, on the opposite, the right bank, of the Yang-tze, is a large provincial city, which was regaining its prosperity, but it has no special connection with commerce.

Han-gang is a place of no importance.

Our reception has been entirely satisfactory. The Treaty of Tien-tsin has been duly published, and supported by other proclamations. The dealers were free in giving information, and were looking forward to a rapid extension of their trade in the coming season.

You will already have heard that these three places were deserted on the 19th and 20th instant, on an alarm consequent on the advance of a rebel army to Hwang-chow, within forty-five miles of Hankow, on the same—the left or northern—bank of the river. The abandonment was most complete; not a house nor a shop was open, and it became equally impossible to purchase goods, to check quotations, or pursue inquiries upon any subjects of doubt or interest.

This most sudden and unexpected change will account in some measure for the deficiencies of the following portion of our report, which in all matters of detail refers to a state of affairs which, at least for the present, has completely passed away. The last reports are up to the morning of the 22nd instant. The measures taken by the authorities for the protection of the deserted property, seemed sufficient to secure it from plunder by local robbers, but no confidence can be restored while it is threatened by an insurgent army.

(A.) *Currency*.—It is impossible to get exact and reliable information, without entering into actual transactions, but we believe 100 taels sycee in Hankow will give 103 to 103·3 in Shanghae taels. So many different accounts are given of the way in which this is made up, that we cannot venture to put forward any explanation. Some even make the out-turn less by about 1 per cent. The sudden flight prevented any of the party securing a set of bullion scales.

Should it appear when business is resumed that different methods are used, we would strongly recommend the first residents to insist on one uniform scale for transactions in foreign commodities.

(B.) *Weights and Measures* are as in Shanghae and Canton. The “che,” or foot of 14 inches, is in common use, and woollen goods are retailed by it.

(C.) *Exchange* was 1,600 or 1,650 cash per tael, 1,040 to 1,100 cash per tael for the Mexican dollar, not however current. 15½ taels sycee, 1 tael Peking gold.

(D.) *Cotton Goods*. Foreign.—The supply this year was chiefly drawn from Canton. Last year the communication seemed more open with Shanghae, which would probably be by river and canal to the Poyang Lake, to Woo-chin and Kiu-Kiang, and thence by junks up the river. The former part of this route would be closed when the rebels took Soo-chow.

The goods coming from Canton are mostly repacked in boxes containing about half the original packages, but we saw all the marks and chops of English fabrics and American drills with which we are familiar in the sea-ports,

The prices, considering that they were quoted in a market avowedly bare of stock, are not excessive, and would rebut the impression that British goods have been subjected to any heavy “squeeze” *in transitu*, in addition to the necessary cost of conveyance.

Both staples and chintzes, handkerchiefs, damasks, and other fancy goods, command attention. A list of prices is appended. They are such as dealers said they would give; and of staples, they seemed quite prepared to make large purchases.

(E.)—We further lay before you, musters and descriptions of the native-made staple grey cotton cloths, the prices cannot be considered low as compared with British manufactures. Native-made yarn is quoted 30,000 cash for white, 20,000 to 26,000 cash for yellow. Cotton, which is very good quality, 16,000 to 18,000 cash; all per picul of 113 catties. The spinning wheel is to be seen in every cottage in the neighbourhood.

(F.)—We did not hear of, nor see, any British yarn.

(G.) *Woollens*.—It cannot be denied that our manufacturers have strong competitors in the Russo-American and Amour Companies, who have a monopoly of the Russian trade with China. The descriptions they supply, compete directly with our medium and army cloths, and Spanish stripes are injuriously affected. Some samples accompany this report, from which members will be able to judge of their quality.

The best is 72 inches within the list, $19\frac{2}{3}$ yards long (5 chang), $30\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. weight (23 catties), the price of which was given as 27 taels per piece, or 1 tael 3 mace 7 cand. per yard, or by retail 7 mace per che, or 1 tael 8 mace per yard. The second quality measures 70 inches only within the list, but is about the same weight and length. The price was 23 taels per piece, 1 tael 18 mace per yard, or retail 6 mace or 1 tael 55 mace per dray.

The route for these goods is from Tien-tsin, partly by river and partly by land, in which transit we hear packhorses, carrying loads of about 300 catties each, are used, to Seyang on the Han river.

Long ells are largely used, and do not seem to be interfered with by Russian cloths. Camlets also are a staple, but the better qualities only seem to be liked.

(H.) *Japanese Seaweed*.—Even so bulky an article as this has found its way to Hankow, and is quoted at 4 taels 7 mace 5 cand. to 8 taels per picul.

(I.) *Coal*.—Is to be had of various qualities, 300 cash to 700 cash per picul (the latter an absurd demand) is asked for it. That it can be used for steam purposes is certain, but its value and quality can only be ascertained by experiments.

(K.) *Silk*.—The crop of Sz'-chuen silk we heard estimated at from 1,000 piculs to 2,000 bales. The quality quoted at about 200 taels is very low, equal at best to Leyangs or No. 3 Taysaams. We hear also that the silk used for embroidery, a branch of village industry followed in the neighbourhood of Woo-chow-foo, is brought from Hu-chow, which is a strong confirmation of the general assertion that finer qualities, at all events at present, are not produced in Sz'-chuen.

(L.) *Tea*.—Dealers are unanimous in saying that, if Hankow be opened, that hitherto grown and prepared in the neighbourhood of the Tung-ting lake would be sent there instead of to Canton. We learn that the great industrial centre of this district is Siang-tan, about 500 li from Hankow, at the mouth of the Siong-suey, running from the southward; here teas are collected for manipulation and packing for Canton; Chang-teh, up a small river to the west, and Chang-shah, on the east of the river and south of the lake, being subsidiary depots, all drawing considerable supplies of English goods from Canton. Yoh-chow, close to the entrance of the lake, is in the midst of a rich tea-growing district, but it was devastated by the rebels in 1853, 1855, and 1857, and has never recovered from the last blow, and is so poor a market for imports that silver has to be sent there generally for all the tea collected in the neighbourhood. Sin-te, on the left bank of the Yang-tze, thirty-seven miles below Yoh-chow, is described as a large and flourishing city.

We do not hear of any green tea grown in this direction.

Nor is any tea grown in the vast alluvial plains about Hankow, nor, as far as we could hear or observe, in the isolated hills rising up above them.

We can afford no special information about any field which can be regarded as actually new to European trade, in this or any other branch of commerce; though there can be no doubt that a rapid expansion will be the result of our free intercourse with Hankow if it be not crippled by the operations of the insurgent army.

(M.) *Opium*.—Native drug is so much cheaper than Indian that it commands the market.

There are three kinds, viz. :—

Szetu, grown in Shan-si and Shen-si, is very strong, but not liked, worth	25 taels
Nantu, grown in Kwei-chau and Yunnan	23 „
Chuentu, grown in Sz'-chuen	20·6 „

per 100 taels weight, about $8\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. avoirdupois; but owing to the sudden panic we were unable to get the exact weight by a known scale.

Malwa is worth 20 to 21 taels per bag of 3 catties, but the high price checks the sale.

Patna is not appreciated.

Of the native produce, the Nantu is most liked, and some say is also most largely used; while other reports state that the lower price of Chuentu secures for it the larger sale.

We are also told that the—

Nantu gives 60 per cent. of extract used for smoking;

Chuentu gives 70 per cent., ditto;

Malwa gives 75 per cent., ditto; .

but have no means of verifying the statement.

(N.) *Native Products*.—Iron is largely produced, but the quotations obtained differ very widely, and owing to the sudden exodus of all those who could give explanation, are now quite inexplicable. Rough iron, in small bars or "pigs," was variously rated at $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 taels per picul. Steel at 9 to 18 taels per picul. Lead, from Sz'-chuen, was quoted $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ taels. Copper, from the same quarter, 23 to 29 taels; and white copper at 42 taels. It likewise supplies sugar, quoted here at 4 taels for brown, up to $6\frac{1}{4}$ taels for very good white, and candy at 8 to $8\frac{1}{4}$ taels; all apparently from the cane.

Excellent vegetable tallow is to be had at 3 taels 9 mace to 4 taels 5 mace per picul, but we could not ascertain in what quantities. Flax of superior quality is abundant, and is largely made into cordage of a very good description.

The manufacture and consumption of oils also is very extensive.

A large trade is done with Canton in the produce and manufactures of the south of China. The fabrics of the unfortunate city of Soo-chow were common in the shops. Merchandize of the most various kinds, and from all quarters of China, were to be found in this so lately flourishing port, and the losses entailed by its abandonment must be felt throughout the whole Empire.

It is to be apprehended that the expected advance of the rebels westward, along the south bank of the Yang-tze, may seriously affect the trade with Canton; and we cannot conclude our Report without expressing our strong opinion that this movement can in no just sense be considered political, still less patriotic or constructive: but unhappily in the present lamentably weak and corrupt state of the Imperial Government, it is impossible to foresee how far the ruin, desolation, and actual depopulation which have hitherto marked the course of the Tae-ping rebellion, may be extended, or how long the advantages reasonably expected from the opening of the Yang-tze may be counteracted by the anarchy and disorganization which entail such dire evils on all classes of society in the Chinese Empire.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ROWLAND HAMILTON.

A. MICHIE.

T. FREDK. BALLANCE.

To R. C. Antrobus, Esq.,

Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai.

MEMORANDUM OF PRICES AT CHIN-KIANG.

Saltpetre	..	..	Taels 20	Per picul of 100 catties.
Gunpowder, fine, in tins	..	..	" 2	Per tin.
" common	..	..	" 4	Per tub (28 lbs.?)
Guns, caps, spy-glasses, pistols, &c.	..	..	..	Much wanted.
Opium, Malwa, retail	..	..	" 48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Per bag, 3 catties.
Soo-chow crapes, silk	..	..	..	Much wanted, at very dear prices.
Shirtings, grey	..	..	..	Not wanted.
" bleached	..	..	..	Ditto.
" red, yellow, blue	..	..	"	Per piece.
Other foreign goods	..	..	..	Not wanted.
Canton silk, 16 in. 40 ft.	..	..	" 8	"
(Worth there about $4\frac{1}{2}$ dollars.)				
Colours, Chinese, for house painting	..	..	..	Wanted.
Salt (in Sin-new-meow about half)	..	..	" 2	Per picul.
Sugar	..	..	" 12	"
Rice, common, broken	..	..	" 4	"
Carolus dollars	..	..	1,450 cash,	same as the tael of Shanghai sycee.
Mexican dollars	..	..	1,000	"
Coal, not to be bought.	..	..	..	..
American drills said not to be wanted, though we saw them in use for tents.				

Provisions, all very dear—

Fowls	300 cash per catty.
Ducks	250 " "
Beef	150 " "
Mutton	160 " "
Fish	20 to 60 cash per catty.
Eggs	10 cash each

The same prices at Nanking.

These quotations are only for retail sales.

QUOTATIONS AT KIU-KIANG.

Grey shirtings, 6½-catty	Tails 1.8 ..	Per piece.
" 7 "	" 2.0 ..	"
" 8 "	" 2.7 ..	"
White ditto, 60 reed	" 1.7 ..	"
" fine	" 2.0 to 2.2 ..	"
American drill	" 3.0 ..	"
Brocades and spotted shirtings, white	" 2.4 2.8 ..	"
" assorted colours	" 2.8 3.4 ..	"
Chintzes, old patterns	" 1.6 1.8 ..	"
Handkerchiefs, blue and bronze		70 to 100 cash each.
Long ells, scarlet	" 8.0 ..	Per piece.
" assorted	" 7.0 ..	"
Spanish stripes	" 0.9 ..	Per yard.
Camlets, inferior to common	" 15.0 21.0 ..	Per piece.
" best	" 21.0 22.0 ..	"
Lastings	" 14.0 ..	"
Opium, Malwa	" 24.0 ..	Per bag of 3 catties.
" Patna		Not in demand.
Cotton, good	" 10.0 ..	Per picul of 140 catty.
Rice, common	3,600 cash per picul of 145 catty.	
Sugar	14,000 " " 160 "	
Flax, clean, yellow	11,000 " " 100 "	

Gold, 20,000 cash per tael, same as Soo-chow tael.

Sycee, 1,640

Mexican dollars, 1,000 cash each.

102 Shanghae taels—100 Kiu-kiang taels.

Wages of carpenters, bricklayers, &c., 160 cash a-day.

Wages of coolies for earth work, 20 cash per picul weight.

35,000 cash per mow asked for land for building purposes.

Wood for building to be had in abundance at Woo-chow.

These quotations represent only transactions on a very limited scale.

PRICES AT HANKOW.

Grey shirtings, 6½ catty	Tails 2.5 ..	Per piece.
" 7 "	" 2.6 to 2.7 ..	"
" 7½ "	" 2.7 2.8 ..	"
" 8 "	" 2.8 3.0 ..	"
White ditto 56 reed	" 2.2 2.3 ..	"
" 60 "	" 2.4 2.6 ..	"
" 64 "	" 2.8 ..	"
T-Cloths, grey, common	" 1.8½ 2.2 ..	"
" fine, 64 reed	" 2.4 2.6 ..	"
American drills	" 3.0 3.2 ..	"
Spot shirtings, white	" 2.4 2.5 ..	"
" assorted colours	" 3.2 3.4 ..	"
Brocades, white	" 2.5 2.6 ..	"
" assorted colours	" 3.2 3.4 ..	"
Damasks	" 6.2 6.4 ..	"
Long ells, scarlet	" 9.5 10.0 ..	"
" assorted colours	" 8.0 9.0 ..	"
Camlets, inferior and common	" 16.0 18.0 ..	"
" best BB	" 21.0 22.0 ..	"
Lastings	" 14.0 16.0 ..	"
Spanish stripes, scarlet	" 1.0 1.1 ..	Per yard.
" assorted	" 0.8.5 0.9 ..	"
Chintzes, inferior	" 1.3 1.8 ..	Per piece.
" common	" 2.0 2.4 ..	"
" cochineals	" 2.7 2.8 ..	"
Handkerchiefs, blue and brouze	" 0.7 1.0 ..	Per dozen.

N.B.—The above were given as prices which dealers would be willing to pay, without discount or allowance.

Oils	..	..	..	..	Taels 6.0 to 6.4	Per picul, 95 catties.
.. common sorts	..	..	..	..	3½	5.0
Flax, white	..	..	..	..	6.0	..
.. best yellow	..	..	..	..	6.2	..
China paper	..	..	..	..	15.0	16.0 Per bale, 80 sheets of 35 piculs.
Black pepper	..	..	..	..	11.0	.. Per picul.
Rhubarb, very coarse	..	..	..	..	7½	9.0
Sz-chuen Varnish, good lacquer	..	..	..	..	25½	..
.. common	..	..	..	..	19½	..
Bees'-wax	..	..	..	..	30.0	..
Tallow, vegetable, good quality	..	..	..	..	3.9	4.2
Sugar, Sz-chuen, brown	..	..	..	..	4.0	4½
.. white	..	..	..	..	6.0	6½
.. candy	..	..	..	..	8.0	8½
Silk, Sz-chuen, very coarse, yellow	..	..	..	..	19.2	..
Lead, Sz-chuen	..	..	..	..	5½	7½
Quicksilver, Sz-chuen	..	..	..	..	55.0	..
Copper, common	..	..	..	..	23.0	..
.. red	..	..	..	..	29.0	..
.. white	..	..	..	..	42.0	..
Steel, 1st quality	..	..	..	..	18.0	..
.. 2nd	..	..	..	..	14.0	..
.. 3rd	..	..	..	..	11.0	..
.. 4th	..	..	..	..	9.0	10.0
Ginseng	..	..	..	..	11.0	.. Per catty.
Japanese seaweed, 1st quality	..	..	..	..	8.0	.. Per picul.
.. 2nd	..	..	..	..	6½	..
.. 3rd	..	..	..	..	4½	..
Cotton	..	..	..	..	10.0	13.0 Per picul of 113 catties.
Wool	..	..	..	..	8,000 to 13,000	cash, 100 catties.
Yarn, native, white	..	..	..	..	30,000	cash per picul of 113 catties.
.. yellow	..	..	..	..	20,000 to 26,000	cash per picul of 113 catties.
Russian cloth, 72 in. 19½ yds. 23 cat., first quality	..	..	..	..	Taels 27.0	Per picul.
Ditto, 70 in. 19½ yds. 23 cat., second quality	..	..	..	..	23.0	..
Native cloths, 18 in. 12 yds., 1 lb. 15 oz., Kinkow	..	..	..	..	780	cash.
Ditto, 15¾-16 in. 12 yds. 1 lb. 13½ oz., Kufung	..	..	..	..	650	..
Ditto, 14¾-15 in. 12 yds., 1 lb. 11 oz., Janlow	..	..	..	..	610	..
Ditto, 15 in. 12 yds. 1 lb. 4½ oz., Manghan	..	..	..	..	480	..

We had no means of checking these quotations of produce, nor of ascertaining whether the picul by which they were sold contained more or less than 100 catties. Discounts amounting to a very heavy per-centage are allowed on some articles, but of these, owing to the flight on the 19th, we could obtain no reliable information.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

The "North China Herald Extraordinary" of March 18, 1861.

British Consular Notification.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, has received a despatch from Harry S. Parkes, Esq., C.B., &c., inclosing for publication the subjoined Notification, and requesting him to give effect to the Provisional Regulations which form one of its Annexes. The Undersigned accordingly hereby gives notice that, pending instructions from Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Chief Superintendent of Trade, he is prepared, in so far as the action of this Consulate is concerned, to give full effect to the "Provisional Regulations for British Trade on the Yang-tsze River" which are now made public.

(Signed)
British Consulate, Shanghai,
March 18, 1861.

THOS. TAYLOR MEADOWS,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

Notification.

Referring to the Notification of his Excellency the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.T., G.C.B., &c., dated Hong Kong, January 20, 1861, informing

Her Majesty's subjects in China of the measures then being taken to give effect to the arrangement concluded between Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and the Imperial Commissioner for opening the Yang-tsze river to British trade, the Undersigned is now authorized by his Excellency the Naval Commander-in-chief to declare the river, above Chinkiang and as far as Hankow, to be open, in accordance with that arrangement, to British vessels under the accompanying Regulations, which are provisional until they have received the sanction of his Excellency the Honourable Mr. Bruce, C.B., and the Peking Government.

His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-chief has furnished the Undersigned, for the information of Her Majesty's subjects in China, with the annexed extracts of a communication made by Commander Aplin, of Her Majesty's ship "Centaur," on the 1st instant, to the insurgent authorities at Nanking, and of their reply, together with a copy of the Pass to be used by British vessels passing Nanking. It will be observed from this correspondence that the free navigation of the river by British vessels is not to be interfered with by the insurgents, but that all intercourse held with any place in their possession will be conducted under such conditions as the insurgent authorities, with the approval of the senior naval officer, shall think proper to prescribe; and the Undersigned is further desired to call attention to that Regulation of the insurgent authorities, which is concurred in by the Commander-in-chief, requiring merchant-vessels not to approach nearer to Nanking, at night, than the Pingshan Pagoda, nor to enter at any time the Tsaouhea Creek.

The positions at present selected for Consular Establishments on the river above Chin-kiang are the cities of Hankow and Kiukiang, and his Excellency the Naval Commander-in-chief has stationed vessels of war at these ports, as well as at Chinkiang and Nanking, for the purpose of protecting British interests and giving due support to Her Majesty's Consuls in the performance of their duties.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

"Coromandel," Yang-tsze River, March 9, 1861.

Provisional Regulations for British Trade in the Yang-tsze River.

Article 1. Every British vessel wishing to proceed up the Yang-tsze river beyond Chinkiang must apply to the British Consul at Shanghai for a pass, to be called the "river-pass," authorizing the vessel to trade as high as Hankow, which will be issued by the Shanghai Customs, and only by the Customs at that port, on the application of the Consul, as soon as the Customs are satisfied that all the dues and duties due upon the vessel and her cargo have been paid. The Consul will deliver the river-pass to the vessel, and will retain in his hands her register or sailing-letter, and on the return of the vessel to Shanghai the river-pass must be surrendered to the Consul and returned to the Customs.

Art. 2. Every vessel proceeding up or down the river shall be permitted to carry for her protection such an amount of arms and ammunition as shall appear to the Customs at Shanghai to be reasonable, and this amount of arms and ammunition shall be entered in a certificate, to be called the "arms-certificate," which shall be delivered by the Customs, through the Consul, to any vessel applying for the same; and the said vessel shall be bound to bring back to Shanghai all the arms and ammunition she is thus authorized to carry, or, if she have expended any portion of them during her voyage up or down the river, then to account for the manner in which such portion has been expended. Any vessel returning to Shanghai without any portion of the arms or ammunition stated in her arms-certificate, and being unable to account satisfactorily for such missing portion, or being discovered trafficking in arms, munitions or implements of war, at any port or place in the river, or carrying any arms or munitions in excess of the amount stated in her arms-certificate, is liable to have her river-pass withdrawn, and to be prohibited from trading upon the river.

Art. 3. The Shanghai Customs may, if they see fit, appoint one or two of their officers to accompany the vessel as far as Chinkiang; and the master of the vessel is bound to receive these officers on board, and to provide them suitable accommodation, but not their food or expenses. Trading of any kind between Shanghai and Chinkiang being an infraction of Article XLVII of the Treaty of Tien-tsin, may be punished as is therein provided.

Art. 4. No vessel is allowed to pass Chinkiang without anchoring, and being reported to the British Consul and the Customs at that port. The master, on arriving at Chinkiang, must deliver to the Consul his river-pass, arms-certificate, Shanghai port-clearance, and a list of all passengers and persons not forming part of the registered crew on board; and, if he wish to proceed up the river immediately, the Consul will forward all the papers above named to the Customs, who may board and inspect the vessel, and if the Customs have no claim upon the vessel, or there be no cause for her detention, they will at once grant a new port-clearance, and give this, together with the river-pass and arms-certificate, to the master, who will then be at liberty to continue his voyage. But if the stay of a vessel at Chinkiang exceed twenty-four hours, she must be reported within that time to the British Consul, and by the Consul to the Customs, in the manner provided in Article XXXVII of the Treaty of Tien-tsin, and a manifest of her cargo, and a copy of her passenger-list furnished to the Consul; and if she land any portion of her cargo, or take on board any cargo, she must do so in the manner provided in the said Treaty; and the Consul will retain in his possession her river-pass and arms-certificate until she receives her port-clearance from the Custom-house, and is again ready to depart. Any British vessel proceeding up the river above Chinkiang without a river-pass, arms-certificate, and Chinkiang port-clearance, duly obtained as provided in these Regulations, commits infringement of Article XLVII of the Treaty of Tien-tsin, and is liable to the penalty therein provided.

Art. 5. Every vessel must be reported to the British Consul at Kiukiang and Hankow within twenty-four hours after her arrival at either of those ports, and the master must lodge in the hands of the Consul the vessel's river-pass, arms-certificate, and Chinkiang port-clearance, and must deliver to the Consul a manifest of her inward cargo, and a list of all passengers and persons not forming part of the registered crew on board; and the Consul will retain in his possession the river-pass, arms-certificate, and Chinkiang port-clearance, until the vessel is again ready to depart, and until he has received the manifest of her cargo outwards, and a list of all passengers and persons not forming part of her registered crew, and intending to leave the port in the said vessel; and, before returning the said papers to the master, the Consul will indorse on the Chinkiang port-clearance the respective dates on which it was lodged in his hands and returned to the master. No report, however, need be made in the case of a vessel passing Kiukiang without anchoring, nor is it requisite that a vessel passing that port without discharging or taking in cargo should deliver a manifest to the Consul.

Art. 6. Every vessel coming down the river must anchor at Chinkiang, and be reported to the Consul, and cleared by the Customs, in the manner provided in Article IV of these Regulations; and the Customs may, if they see fit, appoint one or two of their officers to accompany the vessel to the port of Shanghai, where the vessel is bound to proceed without touching at any other port or place, and these Customs officers must be received on board, and treated in the manner provided in Article 2 of these Regulations.

Art. 7. The payment of all import and export duties due by all British vessels duly authorized to trade on the river above Chinkiang being secured to the Chinese Government by Articles 1, 4, and 6 of these Regulations, Articles XXXVIII, XXXIX, XL, and XLI of the Treaty of Tien-tsin will not apply to such vessels after they have passed Chinkiang inwards; and any vessel so authorized may therefore discharge or load legal merchandize, at ports or places on the river above Chinkiang, without being required to obtain Custom-house permits, or to pay export duties, until the vessel returns to Chinkiang.

Art. 8. The manifests of cargo that are to be delivered to Her Majesty's Consuls at the various ports, as provided in these Regulations, must be made out in the form of a summary, stating the quantity of each description of goods on board, either in dimensions, weight, or value, as the case may be.

Art. 9. The breach of any of these Regulations may be punished by the withdrawal from a vessel of her river-pass, and by prohibiting her from further trading on the river; and if this penalty be awarded when on the river, she may be sent or taken to Shanghai, and also, and in addition to the preceding penalty, by any other pains or penalties that may be incurred by the same offence for a breach of Treaty. And it shall be competent for any of Her Majesty's Consuls to detain any vessel, trading on the river under these Regulations, against which

any other complaint or claim may at any time be laid, until the same shall have been heard and determined by the Consul, and his judgment carried into execution.

Art. 10. These Regulations may at any time be suspended or annulled, added to or amended, as and in whatever way may be judged expedient by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary in China and the High Chinese Authorities in communication together.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Extracts of a Communication made by Commander Aplin, of Her Majesty's ship "Centaur," Senior Officer in the Yang-tsze River, to the Tae-ping Authorities at Nanking, on the 1st March, 1861, by order of Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, K.C.B., Commander-in-chief; and of the Reply of the Tae-ping Authorities thereto.

[See Inclosure 4 in No. 5.]

Form of Pass.

[See Inclosure 5 in No. 5.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

Commander Aplin to Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope.

Sir,

"Centaur," Nanking, March 27, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to report, as required by your instructions, the following slight information respecting the Tae-pings, and the country held by them.

There has been some difficulty in obtaining reliable information, from reluctance on the part of the Tae-pings to afford it, on the subjects on which it was required; and such as I have gathered, and which I believe to be correct, must be received as mere statements requiring proof.

1. There are now ten Wangs, or Kings, exclusive of the Tien-wang; the first is—

(1.) Si-wang, the Western King, a mere youth; he resides at Nanking.

(2.) I-wang, who is now at the head of the Tae-ping forces, conquering the Western provinces.

(3.) Karn, or Kong-wang; he holds the office of Prime Minister, but is at present away with the intention, it is supposed, of taking Hang-chow and Hu-chau.

(4.) Ying-wang, Minister of the Interior; he has left Nanking and gone to Hoopoh, probably intending to attack Woo-chang-foo, its capital, and afterwards Hankow.

(5.) Chong-wang, took Soo-chow, and commanded the Tae-pings when they appeared before Shanghae in August last; is now on his way to Kwang-si, Kwang-tung, Fuh-kien, and Tche-kiang.

(6.) Shi-wang.

(7.) Poo-wang.

(8.) Tsan-wang, at present acting here as Secretary of State; he is an old man, and the work is done by his son.

(9.) Chang-wang, gone to Fychow, holds the office of Treasurer.

(10.) Teh-wang, who holds the banks of the Yellow river, and has lately given in his adhesion to the Tien-wang.

2. The districts or provinces said to be held by the insurgents are Kiang-su, Kwei-chow, Yunnan, part of Kiang-si, part of Hunan and Hoopoh, and the Province of Ngan-whei.

3. A very large portion of the Tae-ping army is engaged in endeavouring to effect the relief of Nanking (the capital of the last-named province) which is besieged by an Imperialist army some 80,000 to 90,000 strong, who are strongly entrenched.

This is said to be the only force of any strength that the Imperialists have in the Southern provinces, and, therefore, if the Tae-pings succeed in defeating them and relieving Nanking, the Southern provinces are at their mercy; and so confident are the Tae-pings that they will do so, that Yang-wang has left the other Wangs to relieve the place, and moved on with a large force into Hoopeh to attack Woo-chang-foo and Hankow.

4. Hoonan and Hoopeh are the principal coal provinces.

Sheang-tan, the principal coal-depôt, is situated about 130 miles westward of Chang-sha, the capital of Hoonan; the price of coal there is reported by the Chinese to be about 30 cents Mexican the picul.

5. All accounts agree that the country in possession of the Tae-pings is in a most deplorable condition.

I should think it is hardly possible to conceive a city that is the seat of the Government presenting a more wretched and ruinous appearance than Nanking does; two-thirds of it are in ruins; few people are to be seen moving about, and trade in the city is prohibited; some few signs of improvement are observable, however, and it is but fair to remember that only a period of thirteen months has elapsed for its recovery from the destruction caused by its being taken in the first instance by assault, and the miseries and injury suffered since when besieged by the Imperialists.

From Mr. Acting Consul Forrest, who arrived here a few days since from Shanghae, via Soo-chow and the Grand Canal, I learn that when he passed Ching-poo heavy firing was heard, and that he was afterwards informed on arriving at Soo-chow a drawn battle had taken place there. Soo-chow is quite destroyed, its extensive suburbs in ruins, and miles of country round it desolate.

On passing about twelve miles inland of Chin-kiang, some 7,000 Tae-pings were met advancing on it, and the sound of heavy guns was heard in its direction.

The number of Tae-ping troops met altogether by Mr. Forrest he estimated at from 45,000 to 50,000 men; they were indifferently armed; about half of the number had fire-arms, but many of them appeared useless; all had spears, swords, and knives.

The country passed through was in a state of utter desolation.

The banks of the Grand Canal, along which is a broad road, are literally white with human bones; nevertheless, about a mile from the banks there is some attempt being made to cultivate the land, the labour being principally performed by women.

From Tan-yang to Nanking there were signs of improvement, both in the state of the country and people; the land was being cultivated; people were returning to settle down again, and a feeling of confidence and security appeared to be gaining ground.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. D'O. D'A. APLIN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 6.

Report by Mr. Parkes of Visit to the Ying-wang, at Hwang-chow, 50 miles from Hankow, March 22, 1861.

HER Majesty's gun-boat "Bouncer" anchored at Hwang-chow at 11.15 A.M., and I landed with Messrs. Hamilton and Ballance. An officer dressed in a long red silk gown, and accompanied by an attendant, who held a light blue satin umbrella of foreign shape over his master's head, received us on the beach, where we were soon surrounded by a crowd of rebels, who came running from the suburbs and the entrenchments at which they were at work to look at us. On mentioning to the officer that I wished to see their principal leader, and should enter the city for that purpose, he simply stated that the leader's name was Chin, and thought that he was absent in a camp outside the city. This officer was not very communicative, but gave the number of the rebels in Hwang-chow at 20,000 or 30,000, and stated that they had taken the city on the 18th instant without fighting; the suburb through which we passed was full of rebels who were busy foraging in the houses, which already bore the appearance of having

been gutted, and were entirely deserted by the people, while other parties were engaged in demolishing all the buildings near the city wall, in order to clear the approach to the latter, and to obtain timber for a triple barricade which they were throwing up around the walls. At the gate by which we entered I observed a Proclamation in the name of the Ying-wang assuring the people of protection, and inviting them to come and trade freely with the troops. Another Proclamation addressed to the latter prohibited them from that date from wandering into the villages and plundering the people. A third notice, appended to the heads of two rebels, made known that these men had been executed for robbing the people of their clothes while engaged in collecting grain for the troops. The very motley garb of those rebels who surrounded us suggested the idea that many among them must have shared in the same offence; few of them wore any distinguishing dress, and while most of them had allowed their hair to grow, they all appeared to have preserved their tails. In reply to the inquiries I put them, I found them to be men collected from at least six or eight provinces; those from Hoonan and Hoopeh probably predominated, and the large proportion of young lads attracted our attention.

Following the main street we soon came to the building which had been the yamun of the Prefect, where we found preparations being made to give us a formal reception. We were saluted with music and three guns, and were received by several officers dressed in yellow gowns, who conducted us through two large courts lined with troops, armed for the most part with spears or halberds and carrying a large number of very gaudy flags without any definite emblem. The doors of the principal hall, which usually stand open, were kept closed until we put foot upon the steps, when they were suddenly thrown back, and we saw seated in state, in the middle of the hall, a young looking man, robed in a yellow satin gown and hood embroidered with dragons. A number of officers dressed in long yellow gowns with yellow handkerchiefs on their heads stood by him, but the crowd of men in coolie or menial garb who pressed into the hall interfered somewhat with the theatrical effect that it appeared intended these arrangements should produce. The principal personage seemed at a loss to know how to receive his visitors, and was evidently relieved when I drew a chair from a somewhat distant point to the table at which he was seated, and broke the silence by entering into conversation with him.

He informed me that he was the leader known as the Ying-wang (or heroic Prince); that he was charged from Nanking to relieve Nganking, and had undertaken a westward movement with the view of gaining the rear of the Imperial force besieging that city on the western side. So far he had been completely successful.

Leaving Tung-ching, a city forty miles to the north of Nanking, on the 6th instant, he marched in a north-westerly direction upon the district city of Hoh-shan, thus avoiding all the Imperialists' posts in the districts of Yung-chung, Tseen-shan and Tai-hoo. On the 10th he took Hoh-shan, where there was no considerable head of force opposed to him, and then turning to the south-west, reached Yung-shan on the 14th, which fell in the same way.

Hastily securing the munitions of these two places, of which he stood in need, he pressed on to Hwang-chow, and succeeded in surprising a camp of the Amoor Tartars, killing, as the Ying-wang said, all the men, and capturing all their horses. This, and a small affair at Paho, placed him in possession of Hwang-chow, which he entered without opposition on the 17th instant.

He had thus taken three cities, and had accomplished a march of 600 li (say 200 miles) in eleven days, and was now in a position either to attack in rear the Imperial force which he had just turned, and draw them off from Nanking, or, postponing that operation, to occupy Hang-kow, from which he was distant only fifty miles. He added, however, that he felt some hesitation in marching upon the latter place, as he had heard that the English had already established themselves at that port.

I commended his caution in this respect, and advised him not to think of moving upon Han-kow, as it was impossible for the insurgents to occupy any emporium at which we were established, without seriously interfering with our commerce, and it was necessary that their movements should be so ordered as not to clash with ours. In this principle he readily acquiesced, and said that two of his leaders who had pushed on beyond Hwang-chow should be directed

to take a northerly or north-westerly course, and go towards Ma-ching or Tih-ngan, instead of towards Han-kow.

Having put several inquiries to him as to the future plans of the insurgents, he readily entered into the following particulars relative to the campaign, in which he said they were then engaged, and to which his information appeared to be limited.

Four rebel columns are in the field, his own and three others, severally commanded by the Chang-wang, Shi-wang, and Ho-wang. These three Wangs (or Princes) were to leave Hwang-chow in the middle of the 1st month (February), and marching in different directions on the south of the Yang-tze, while he, the Ying-wang, moves through the country on the north bank, they propose to rendezvous at Woo-chang in the 3rd month (April). The Chung-wang is to cross Kiang-si below Nan-chang (the capital of that province), and to march by Suy-chow to Yoh-chow on the Tung-tsing lake, and thus reach a position to the west of Woo-chang. The Shi-wang is to cross the Poyang Lake, and visiting or passing by Nan-chang is to enter Hoo-peh by Ning-chow, and thus approach Woo-chang on the south face. The Foo-wang is to make for Hoo-kow and Kiu-kiang, and embarking his force if he is able to do so, is to ascend the Yang-tze and attack Woo-chang on the east side, while, as already pointed out, Ying-wang's force is to close in upon the north side. Returning to the subject of Hankow, he observed that although he might desist from occupying that place, the other Wangs being uninformed of our position there, might still continue to carry out the above plan, and he suggested that both the English and insurgent interest might be accommodated by our taking Hankow and Woo-chang, and allowing him to occupy Han-yang.

I explained to the Ying-wang that our objects in coming up the Yang-tze were strictly commercial; that our recent Treaty with the Imperial Government, with whom we were now at peace, gave us the right of trade upon the Yang-tze, but as the insurgents utterly destroyed trade wherever they went, they would render this right nugatory if they occupied those ports that had been expressly opened to our commerce. Han-yang was one of three cities connected with each other, and forming one great mart, commonly called Hankow. The rebels could not take any one of these cities without destroying the trade of the whole emporium, and hence the necessity of their keeping away altogether.

These subjects, however, I added, are in the hands of the Admiral who commands the English expedition in the river. He is now on his way back, and as he passes Nanking will, doubtless, come to a distinct understanding on the above points with the insurgent authorities there; the latter, it may be presumed, will then forward instructions to the Ying-wang for his guidance, and until the receipt of these instructions he should refrain from making any further movement upon Hankow. That as nothing had been heard at Kiu-kiang of the advance of Chung-wang or the other leaders up to the 9th instant, it might be presumed that at that date they had not yet crossed into Kiang-si. He would not, therefore, have the advantage of their support if he moved at once upon Hankow, and would have to contend alone with the Imperial force assembling for the defence of Woo-chang, as well as with the Nganhwuy force, which would then form in his rear.

The Ying-wang seemed to concur entirely in what I urged. He computed his own following at 100,000 men, but considered that scarcely half of them had reached Hwang-chow. He should first fortify his position, he said, at Hwang-chow, and then be guided by circumstances as to his next operations. Perhaps he might attack the Imperialists between him and Ngan-king, or perhaps make an incursion into the North of Hoo-peh. He had only a few of the Nienfei (or Northern insurgents) with him, but these roving bodies of marauders, as he himself called them, are always ready to join the Tae-ping standard when wanted. They had just had certain operations, against them in the North of Ngan-hwuy, which were to be conducted under the joint direction of a Tae-ping and Nienfei leader. They are to move from Leu-chow near the centre of Ngan-hwuy, first North and then East, taking the cities of Luhgan-chow, Show-chow, and Fung-yang-foo, or passing through the departments named after these cities, and then, turning South, they are to fall upon the important commercial city of Yang-chow, opposite Chin-kiang. The Ying-wang also repeated the report common in other quarters, that Shih-ta-kai has undertaken a movement in Sze-chuen, his

force for this purpose being principally composed of the banditti of Yoo-nan and Kwei-chow.

I was favourably impressed with the modest manners and the intelligence of the Ying-wang, and he appeared to be respected by those around him. His literary attainments are probably limited, though his pronunciation of Mandarin is better than that I have hitherto heard spoken by Tae-ping leaders. He gave his age at 20 only, but this is probably five or six years under the mark.

After leaving him we walked round the city. This has long been in a decayed state, and when we visited it on the 10th instant, might have contained, in the small portion of its large area that is built over, including also the suburbs, a population of about 40,000. The whole of these had fled from the place, but every house was now filled with rebels, of whom we saw in all, probably, from 20,000 to 30,000. Working-parties swarmed outside the walls, engaged in the construction of the triple row of stakes above mentioned, and in which they had already made considerable progress. Other parties, whom we saw arriving, seemed greatly fatigued with their march, and many of the men threw themselves down in the streets and slept without taking the trouble to remove their burdens. These consisted chiefly of clothes and provisions of all kinds, as rice, pork, poultry, &c., obtained on the line of march. Many of them seemed also in a sickly and diseased state, and appeared to be of the mendicant class. Their strength may have been tried by their long and hurried march, or the force may have been joined by the poor and destitute of the country through which they passed. We saw few weapons but knives and spears upon them, and these only on the persons of the parties just arriving. Those who had already been quartered, or were at work on the defences, had already returned their arms (as we were told) into store. They did not seem to possess a single piece of artillery, but had a considerable number of ponies, those in best condition having belonged to the Tartar camp they recently surprised, and they stabled these animals in the houses they themselves occupied. They had no females with them, and stated that they had left all their women at Nanking.

The general appearance of the whole force was that of a mob, or probably that of a Pindaree host; but while no discernible steps were taken for preserving order among them, they all appeared on the best terms with each other; and although engaged in the exciting work of the division of plunder, or of accommodation, no instance of fighting, dispute, or drunkenness came under our observation, nor did we see any of them indulging either in gambling or in smoking tobacco.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure 6 in No. 6.

Report by Mr. Parkes of Visit to Ngan-king, March 24, 1861.

HER Majesty's gun-boat "Bouncer" anchored off Nganking at 5.15 P.M., and I landed with the Commander, Lieutenant Creasy. Numbers of the insurgents had collected to see the gun-boat pass, and on seeing that we stopped and came to an anchor, several of them eagerly waved to us to land, while half-a-dozen ran down to one of the few boats hauled up on the bank under the walls, and pushed off to speak with us. I told these men that we intended to go into the city to see their principal leader Yeh, and they started off at once to give him notice of our coming.

A considerable number of the insurgents had collected by the time we landed, and we were conducted by those among them who possessed or assumed authority, to the great south gate, an entrance which consists of two posterns, in the dark space between which we had to wait, while those who had us in charge secured the outer portion against the crowd outside the city, and opened a way for us through the throng that pressed with equal eagerness on the inner side.

After traversing several of the streets, we were taken to the residence of Chang, one of the leaders, from whom, as also from the Proclamations and notices I had observed on my way, I learned that the city was governed by a Commission of three, Yeh, She, and Chang, aided or watched by Chin, uncle of the Ying-wang. Chang sent for the other leaders, and while we were waiting

for them, took us, at my request, to the principal look-out tower, from which point we obtained a good view of the city, and the Imperialist positions outside it.

The city is of limited extent, and the few streets necessary to give shelter to the garrison are all that are now preserved; the rest have gradually been destroyed in the course of the occupation, either to supply the garrison with fuel, or to obtain space for the cultivation of vegetables, which are grown within the walls in considerable quantities.

The other leaders, Yeh and She, joined us on the tower, and pointed out to us the Imperial lines. These, they said, consisted of some five-and-twenty entrenched camps, each garrisoned with 400 or 500 men, and forming, together with the fleet on the river, a complete cordon round the city. Some of these fortified positions are advanced within easy gun-shot of the city walls, but the leaders told me that they only fire upon the insurgents when the latter attempt to send parties out of the city. The insurgents, on their side also, refrain from attacking the Imperialists, as they are only expected, they said, to defend the city, and they trust to the Ying-wang to disperse the besieging force. The families of a number of the insurgent leaders have been placed for safety within the city, including the wives and children of Ying-wang himself. This has been their position for nearly a year, but they are now becoming straightened for want of provisions, although professing to be able to hold out for some months to come. They were then issuing, they said, a catty of rice to each man per day. In numbers they admitted themselves to be superior to the Imperialists, as they have within the city from 20,000 to 25,000 men. They have also to feed 4,000 or 5,000 females, and the usual large proportion of boys—perhaps as many as 10,000—which are found with every rebel force. The Imperialist army opposed to them numbers about 10,000 or 12,000 men on land, and 3,000 or 4,000 afloat.

On returning to Chang's house, with the other leaders, we there met the uncle of Ying-wang. I told him, in the hearing of a large crowd of officers and retainers, of the recent successes of his nephew, and that I had seen him on the 22nd instant at Hwang-chow. They inquired as to his next movements, and whether he intended to enter Han-kow. I replied that I believed he would avoid that port, as he now knew that we were established there, and I presumed it could not be the wish of the insurgent leaders to molest our commerce by occupying and destroying all trade at the ports where this was being carried on.

They met the remark with no objection, and inquired whether we had also established ourselves at Kiu-kiang. I told them that this was the case, and I then explained to them our present relations with the Chinese Government, as they either had not heard of the recent Treaty, or affected to be ignorant of it.

Having told them that I was going to Nanking, they desired me to urge the Kan-wang to send them supplies of rice, oil, and salt. They were able, they said, to keep up communications both with Nanking and the Ying-wang, their last intelligence from the latter being only a fortnight old.

Yeh, the principal of these leaders, is an intelligent active man, but all four of them are men of a low type. They come from Kwang-si, while the bulk of their followers are from Hoo-nan and Hoo-peh; they appear to keep their city in very good order, though this, in the utter absence of trade or traffic, is probably not a work of much difficulty. Many of the faces of those we saw wore a sunken pallid look, as if pinched for want of provisions, but they appeared cheerful and amenable to control. They were dressed like ordinary Chinese, with the exception of their long hair; but their appearance gave no evidence of their military character, and I did not see a weapon in the hands of one of them. The few pieces of artillery with which the defences are armed seemed to be of very inferior description.

On the way to our boat we were overtaken by a messenger, who said that the three leaders were anxious to speak with me on a matter of great importance, and would come out of the city, or on board the gun-boat, for the purpose. We waited for them in a house for some time, but as they did not appear, and it was then half-past 7 P.M., we returned to our vessel. We were shortly followed by a boat full of people, who said they had come for no other purpose than to press upon my acceptance three solid gold bangles as a present from Yeh. These I, of course, returned at once, with an expression of displeasure at their having

been sent, and this circumstance, perhaps, induced the leaders to change their intention of visiting me, as I heard nothing further from them, although the gun-boat lay off the city throughout the night.

The following morning I visited the fleet lying below the city, but could meet with no officer of higher rank than a Major; the Admiral, whom I had expected to see, being at another point on the river. The Major confirmed the rebel account as to the number of the besieging force, which he estimated at only 10,000 on shore, and 3,000 or 4,000 afloat. The principal commander on shore is Tsang Kwoh-kin, a brother of the Viceroy of the Two Kwang provinces. The Admiral Yang Tsai-fuh commands afloat, and is assisted by a Commissioner, Pang Yulin. He, the Admiral, has been watching Nganking for the space of eighteen months, and Tsang Kwoh-kin for ten; Pang Yulin has only recently arrived from Kiang-si. Their supplies of rice are forwarded from that province, but the pay of the troops is nine months in arrear, and the men are discontented in consequence. The force, as usual, is almost wholly composed of braves. Those whom I saw came chiefly from Hoonan, and I was particularly struck with their soldierly appearance, all of them being strong and active men, and very neatly dressed.

(Signed)

HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure 7 in No. 6.

Report by Mr. Forrest of Journey from Shanghae to Nanking.

Sir,

"Centaur," Nanking, March 28, 1861.

IN accordance with instructions from you I left Ningpo for Shanghae on the 24th February, and requested the senior naval officer on my arrival at that port to give me a passage to Hankow. Unfortunately instructions had been forwarded to him not to send any vessel up the river, and I consequently determined to make my way through the insurgent country to Nanking, trusting that I might there find some means of reaching Hankow.

I wrote to the Taoutae of Shanghae for a pass to get through the Imperialist fleet, usually lying off Sung-keang, but, in answer to my request, he asserted that I should meet with no hindrance whatever, as the commander of the junks knew me personally. No Imperialist fleet of any kind, however, was met with on the river. A considerable fight was going on between Sung-keang and Ching-poo as we passed; we could hear the guns distinctly, and learnt afterwards that levies from Shanghae had advanced against the rebel lines, where a drawn fight was the result.

Observing a large number of vessels evidently trading between Shanghae and Soo-chow, I made inquiry and found that there exists a constituted society, having friends among the contending parties; for a heavy consideration the boats are allowed to trade unmolested, to the large number of nearly 5,000. The crew acknowledge and pay tribute to a Chief named Fe Ngo-ching, who lives at a village called Chow-chuang, near Soo-chow, and has taken a small command under the insurgents. The late Taoutae at Soo-chow had given him a blue button for his services, but soon after the fall of the city the Governor, Il-such, caught him at Shanghae, and it was only by heavy bribes that he escaped from jail and the sentence of death passed upon him. He now pays a large sum to the Imperialist officers to allow his boats to pass. The men belonging to the Confederation have a regular system of signals and passwords; nor is it improbable that fear of giving provocation to such a large body of men has more weight with the High Imperial officers than the bribes administered by their Chief.

We passed the rebel outposts without molestation, but were compelled by an excessively dirty man to pay a tax of 5 taels for each of our boats on entering the moat at Soo-chow. Several soldiers visited us, from whom but little information was to be gained; most of them had been pressed into the service, and not a few had the Chinese characters for the dynasty pricked into their cheeks. Some had been present at the repulse from Shanghae, but none seemed to think that the Imperial authorities could ever get hold of them. They knew nothing of their future movements, but answered inquiries with the remark that they

had rice enough every day; and that to-morrow might take care of itself. The Kings take care to send the men captured in a new district to the other extreme of their territory, and we found that men from Hoonan, Hoopeh, and the Two Kiang formed the garrison of all towns along the Grand Canal. The soldiers stated that about a hundred foreigners were employed by the insurgents; they are living in Ching-poo and Soo-chow, and get 30 taels per month. With the exception of one man with blue eyes and flaxen hair, I saw nothing like a foreigner during the whole journey.

We were well received by Lin, second in command at Soo-chow, who at once gave us a passport, and entered into a long conversation with us. He has a strong objection to any show or state, and lives in a very quiet manner.

Words cannot convey any idea of the utter ruin and desolation which mark the line of Tae-ping march from Nanking to Soo-chow. The country around the last unfortunate city will soon be covered with jungle, while the vast suburbs, once the wonder of even foreigners, are utterly destroyed; a few miserable beings are met with outside the gates selling bean curd and herbs, but with these exceptions none of the original inhabitants are to be found, and we actually flushed teal in the city moat, where only a year ago it was barely possible to find a passage from the immense number of boats actively engaged in commerce and traffic. The interior of the city is equally desolate, the whole of the house-fronts have been torn down, and the numerous water-courses are filled with broken furniture, rotten boats, and ruin. The same may be said of all cities on the canal, and as for the villages and places unprotected by walls, they have been burned so effectually and carefully that nothing but the blackened walls remain.

A very large body of rebels was engaged in the erection of defences outside the Chang gate of Soo-chow. The forts have for object the protection of the entrance to the Grand Canal, which was crowded with boats laden with foreign arms, furniture, and goods of all sorts. Great preparations, we were informed were being made for the storming of Hang-chow, against which place the Kan-wang and 70,000 newly arrived Cantonese insurgents had proceeded. The mass of boats, with the utmost civility and with infinite trouble, made a passage for our boats, and we entered on the Grand Canal.

The same sad story everywhere suggested itself. Devastation marked our journey. The land on either bank was waste to the distance of a mile from the bank, while the towing-path, which is also the grand rebel highway, was like an upturned churchyard. Human remains were lying about in all directions. During the retreat of the Imperialists after the fall of Woo-si, the rebels followed them on horseback; no quarter was given to the fugitive troops, whose ranks were augmented by the frightened peasantry; they were slain as overtaken, and if the towing-path yet shows the signs of slaughter, the waters of the canal conceal the remains of by far the greater numbers of the victims.

Large numbers of Tae-ping soldiers were passed every day, in fact there was one continuous stream of them going from Nanking to Soo-chow and Chin-keang-foo, against which last place the insurgents are making great efforts. We heard the roar of the guns at and near Tam-yang, and the Chief at that town told us that they should undoubtedly take the city very soon. We could see by the smoke of burning houses in which direction Chin-kiang lay, and remarked at the same time that the rebels had in no way changed their usual destructive habits.

I had heard, and believe it to be true, that the Tae-pings are making such efforts to take the Yang-tze ports in consequence of an idea that if a foreign Consul once is established in any of them, the same protection will be given to the place as is given to Shanghai.

I took some trouble to examine the foreign arms carried by the insurgents, and find that the purchasers have been, in almost every instance, the victims of foreign fraud. Most of the guns and all the pistols I looked at were very old, and badly made, useless weapons, with the detonating apparatus broken. A number of muskets that I saw at Soo-chow, recently bought (the soldier said) from American strangers, were of such a description that half-a-dozen shots will certainly destroy them, and probably their owners too. On the whole I am convinced that the foreign arms, of which they have a very large quantity, are far more dangerous to the insurgents themselves than to their enemies.

One characteristic of the Tae-ping movement is the employment of a vast

number of boys in the army. Every Chief has several, and although I never saw a rebel soldier who could be called old, where there is one grown-up man there are two or three boys of from twelve to eighteen years of age. They have all been kidnapped at various places, but appear quite delighted with their profession, giving themselves the most insolent swagger and airs. These youths always saluted us as "devils," while their superiors and Chiefs were very particular in calling us foreign brothers when they had occasion to talk to us.

On leaving our boats at Pao-ying, we had more opportunity of getting among the people, who were not alarmed at the sight of strangers as were the few wretched people along the canal. In fact, much more confidence and safety was apparent around us. A large number of people had returned to their homes and former occupations. The proclamations, not few in number, of Tien-wang's son and Chung-wang, prohibited the soldiers from carrying off men or women on pain of death.

The people gave us a melancholy history of the Tae-ping outbreak, and the treatment accorded to the newly conquered districts. A great deal of indiscriminate slaughter at first took place; the young men and women were carried off; all portable valuable property became the prize of the conquerors, and only the old men and women left behind. Crowds of fugitives crossed the Great River to await better times; they are now, I am glad to say, fast returning to their homes. The insurgents do not molest them much: a certain number are compelled to attend on the Chief to do the coolie work of the public service; when their turn is finished, others take their place, and they themselves are permitted to return home; of this class of men were those who carried our baggage and chairs, they worked cheerfully and well, asked for no gratuity, and were very grateful for the little present we gave them when they left us.

The rebel authorities pay a visit to the rural districts once a month, and exact a tribute of cash or rice from the inhabitants of the villages. Regularly-appointed officers are stationed in all important places, in whom the people seem to have confidence, and unless some new military operations disturb Nanking, the villages around will soon become peopled, and the land resume its wonted fertile appearance.

We arrived at Nanking soon after an Edict had been passed prohibiting trade in the city. The reason given was, that as Tien-kiang (Nanking) was the Imperial residence, it should not be disturbed by the clamour of the tradesfolk, and that bad characters had come in as traders. Fourteen unfortunates, who tried to make a little gain in spite of the Edict, were at once executed; a brisk trade has consequently sprung up outside the several gates. The market at the south gate is particularly busy and crowded, nor are there houses enough in the suburbs to meet the demand. I should estimate the population of the city and suburbs at about 70,000 men, against the 200,000 spoken of by the authorities.

Building is going on in the city, and people who have known the place before say that marked improvement is taking place. A good deal of wealth exists among the people, and it is not a little curious that the Tae-pings have a silver currency of very convenient size and value. The common coin is of the size of a shilling, but worth rather more; it is exactly like a copper cash, and has an inscription engraved on it. A large silver coin of the value of a sovereign exists, but I have seen none. Imperial cash is used in preference to their own Tae-ping copper coins, and, of course, sycee is readily taken.

The authorities assert, and with some show of truth, that the rulers are now giving their attention to the formation of a fixed order of government, and to the improvement of the condition of the people; measures impossible before, because of the Imperialist army. Only one King, the Chaa-wang, is in the city at present, to wait upon Tien-wang, and all his work is done by his son. I saw this son twice, once in his palace, when he volunteered an account of Tien-wang's visions, and once when he was preaching to the public with his robe and crown on. This sermon had but little to do with religion, and was merely a collection of orders to the people.

I inclose a translation of an interesting Edict of Tien-wang, in which his intentions with regard to foreigners are made known. Mr. Roberts, the gentleman mentioned therein, has refused for the sixth time the honour conferred, and is, in fact, without any influence in Nanking.

I cannot conclude without mentioning the obligation I am under to my

travelling companion, the Rev. J. Edkins, who was indefatigable in assisting me to get any information during our journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. FORREST.

Inclosure 8 in No. 6.

Edict of Tien-wang, the Chief Tae-ping.

(Translation.)

I DECREE to the two sons of the Western King, to brother Kow-wang, brother Ta-shi-takee, brother Ying-wang, brothers Seu-chung-wang and Isaw-wang, to nephew Yeu-wang, and brother Shih-wang, brothers Fu-wang and Chan-wang, and to nephew Wan, and to all the Celestial Generals, Colonels, Majors, and Captains, the keepers of the Palace, protectors of the city, and Presidents of the Six Boards, to all merchants, native and foreign, and the one great family of the world, that all the officers and people may know it.

The Father, Brother (Christ), myself, and the young Lord (his son), reign over the heavenly Dynasty. Do you all be bold, and utterly exterminate the imps.

Already I have decreed in Law No. 5 respecting putting to death, that the old, sick, women and children, with all persons not having arms, should not be slain. Now, I make another decree that every one who does not assist the imps are by great favour pardoned. If those that assist them are slain, it cannot be wondered at.

Foreign merchants buying and selling are to be regarded as brethren, and any one killing them must suffer death.

Let all officers obey the law, and excuse none.

In my former Edict it was ordered that all foreign criminals should be handed over to Mr. Roberts, who, with the Consuls, should judicially examine the facts, and decide according to justice, and should then ask for my decision to determine the case, that peace and harmony might reign for a myriad autumns.

I now decree that there be also a Judge, who, with Mr. Roberts, shall inquire into offences, and that foreigners unite and recommend such an officer, and request me to issue an Edict and appoint him, so that partiality may be wholly avoided.

The Father, the Brother, I, and the young Lord, are the one Great Lord. Through the whole world love and grace are extended.

The Father descended in a dream, and made a revelation to my wife, and commanded that I should not attend to common things from this time forth; therefore obey my Decree on all points, and give harmonious faith to it.

I now decree with regard to foreign parts that the Foreign Secretary of State Roberts shall direct all foreign mercantile affairs, and that every nation may appoint its Consul, who, with Mr. Roberts, shall attend to foreign transactions, besides which they should openly choose a just and impartial man to be Judge. This officer, with Mr. Roberts, shall look into all difficult cases, and refer to me for final decision. He shall be Under-Secretary of the State, and the title on his seal shall be Generalissimo of the Nine Gates, Judge for Foreign Affairs under the Celestial Dynasty, which is the Kingdom of God.

Let all the officers of the Board of Offices issue the seals of the Foreign Minister, the Judge, and the Consuls.

2nd moon and 2nd day.

Inclosure 9 in No. 6.

Report by Mr. Parkes of Visit to Woo-hoo and Tae-ping, March 28, 1861.

I LANDED at Woo-hoo, accompanied by Lieutenant Creasy, and entered the town without attracting either the attention or the curiosity of its occupants. The same indifference was shown at all the official residences which we visited, with the object of seeing the authorities of the place and making some inquiries. Those whom we did meet were little inclined to enter into conversation with us, and gave us several different statements as to who and where their Chief was.

No difficulty, however, was placed in the way of our walking about the place and forts as we pleased.

The town on the water side is called Ning-keang-kwan. It consists of half-a-dozen forts or walled camps, constructed on as many mounds or small hills, and connected by a curtain on the water side, and with lanes and streets on the land face. These thoroughfares are in a most filthy condition, so much so as to be almost impassable; they form, in a word, the common cesspools of the town, and unless something be done to improve its present condition before the hot weather sets in, the place can scarcely escape being visited by pestilence. All the inhabitants are in perfect keeping with the place as regards their dirty, demoralized appearance. Women seemed more numerous than men, but this circumstance was explained by a notice stating that the Chief had, a few days before, taken the field, and warning those who remained that they must guard the place by day, watch it at night, and keep their streets clean, on pain of being beheaded if they did not comply. The last injunction could not have been observed even while the Chief was in the place; and the first one, probably owing to the absence of an enemy, seemed to be treated with as little attention. The forts are of wretched construction, and the artillery mounted on them is of the same order.

Woo-hoo, or its remains, lie about a mile and a-half from the river. The whole of the intervening space between Ning-keang and Woo-hoo formed, prior to the rebel occupation, one continuous town, and owing to its excellent situation, Woo-hoo has long been known as one of the principal emporia on the Yang-tze. The site of its extensive suburbs can now only be traced by brick heaps, and the same may almost be said of the city itself; all the gates and portions of the wall have been removed, but on the south face, which leads into the country, the remnants of a few streets still serve as a market-place for the supply of necessities to a small and ill-conditioned population.

Straggling parties of a few men each, coming in from the country, formed the only appearance of troops that we saw. Some of them said they had been sent in from columns in the field at places in this province (Ngan-hwuy), or from others as far off as Kiang-si or Honan. Some Canton men whom we met said that they had left their own province to join the Tae-pings only a year ago. Ponies were plentiful in the camps; and several better-dressed men, probably rebel officers, were riding about armed with foreign pistols and rifles. Beggars were very numerous, and we noticed many of them lying in the streets or roads in a deplorable state of destitution.

Tae-ping, which is less than twenty miles from Woo-hoo, presents the same scene as that town. As in the case of the latter, the "kwan," or trading town, is on the river side, while the site of the city is about two miles inland. It has a larger traffic, however, than Woo-hoo. I attracted a little more attention in this place, and rebel officers were anxious that I should sell them opium. Tobacco, both here and at Woo-hoo, was freely sold and smoked. Beggars were as numerous as at Woo-hoo. I noticed the body of a youth, not ill-dressed, and with his face much gashed, lying in a ditch by the road side, but the circumstance did not appear to attract public attention. I saw also that the people collected the weeds in the ponds for food; and an old man and his wife, who were wandering homeless over the country, seeing that for a few moments he was out of the hearing of other people, told me a piteous tale of his own sufferings, and of the desolation of the country round. He drew little distinction between Imperial troops and rebels—he had suffered alike at the hands of both.

Almost within sight of a rebel Proclamation forbidding irregular impressions, I observed two rebel soldiers quarrelling with each other for the services of six or seven country women, who had been taken by one of these men to collect bricks for him from the ruins of Tae-ping city, and who were wanted by the other man for the same purpose.

Tax-rice was being brought in from the country, and the people who carried it told me that the present levy was 4 shing per mow.

The city of Tae-ping is obliterated. For some time I walked by a high bank without knowing that it was the remains of the city wall. The stone facing of the wall, and the bricks of most of the houses within the city, have been used for the construction of walled camps outside. I was told by a rebel that the city was razed to the ground in consequence of the resistance it had offered when

first taken in 1853. Prior to its destruction Tae-ping was a place of some note, not only from its class as a Foo city, but also from its situation at the mouth of two streams, one of which communicates with the tea-growing districts in the south of the Province, while the other, an affluent of the Yang-tze on its north bank, flows through the principal Departments of the northern half of the Province.

The area formerly inclosed within the city walls has a circumference of nearly four miles, the whole of which is now a complete blank. The rebels have formed here a small flotilla of ten or a dozen gun-boats of diminutive size.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure 10 in No. 6.

Commander Aplin to Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope.

Sir,

"Centaur," Nanking, April 2, 1861.

WITH reference to the communication made by me to the chief Tae-ping authorities at Nanking, as directed by your Memorandum of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that after, in company with Mr. Parkes, having had four interviews with the Tae-ping authorities, I received a promise to-day that the order should be given as requested respecting the beacons; that, with regard to the 2nd paragraph of the communication, an order would be sent to their officers in command not to attack Shanghae or Woo-sung this year, and to remain, as required by you, 100 li from those places. A copy of the order I inclose.

Mr. Parkes, to whom I am much indebted for obtaining this order, will inform you of the particulars of the several interviews, and give you information on several subjects connected with the Tae-pings which he obtained during his stay here.

Mr. Parkes will leave this for Shanghae in the "Bouncer" to-morrow morning at daylight.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. D'O. D'A. APLIN.

Inclosure 11 in No. 6.

Orders addressed to Commander Aplin.

Memo.

"Coromandel," Nanking, March 28, 1861.

YOU are, in company with Mr. Muirhead, to wait on the chief authorities of the Tae-pings, for the purpose of making the following communication, leaving a copy with them should they wish you to do so, and noting their answers in the margin for my information.

(Signed)

J. HOPE,

Commander Aplin,

Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

Her Majesty's ship "Centaur," Nanking.

Inclosure 12 in No. 6.

Communication made by Commander Aplin to the Tae-ping Authorities at Nanking.

I AM directed by the Commander-in-chief of the naval forces of Her Majesty the Queen of England in China to acquaint you, that it is his intention to have beacons put up on the river side between Woo-sung and Fu-shan, to facilitate the navigation of the river, and that he requests an order may be sent to the commander of the Tae-ping forces in that neighbourhood that these beacons shall not be disturbed. A copy of the order to be given to me.

That the Governments of England and France having ordered that any attempt of the Tae-ping army to enter Shanghae or Woo-sung shall be repelled by force, and it being clear, therefore, that the presence of the Tae-ping troops in that vicinity can be productive of no good to them, and may lead to collision,

it is very desirable that they should not approach within two days' march of these places, and the Commander-in-chief requests that orders may be sent to the officers in command of their troops to this effect; copies to be supplied to me. Should this be done, he will exert his influence to prevent any hostile expedition issuing from these places for the purpose of attacking the Tae-ping troops.

Inclosure 13 in No. 6.

Decree of Tien-wang.

(Translation.)

MUNG, the Tsan-sze Renn (successor elect to the Prince Tsan) of the heavenly Tae-ping kingdom, issues the following urgent orders to the Ching Tsin-kwan, Ai-Teene, and Moh-hun-te (names of certain high officers), for their information:—

Whereas officers deputed by the Admiral of Great Britain have come to the Palace of the Tsan-sze Renn and stated that, as Shanghai and Woo-sung are depôts of their commerce, they have undertaken the protection of those two places, in order that the safety of all classes of the people living there may be secured. They therefore request that the forces of the Celestial Dynasty may not go to those two places, the same being unnecessary, and not likely to be attended with any material advantage. The Tsan-sze Renn accordingly issues these urgent orders to his younger brethren, in order that they may direct the troops composing the different divisions that, whenever they arrive in the vicinity of the places named, they must not approach nearer to them than 100 *li*, an arrangement which will conduce to the advantage of both parties. They are also to understand that the capture of those places is to form no part of the plan of campaign for the present year.

The officers of Great Britain have further represented that, with a view to facilitate the navigation at the entrance of the river between Fuh-shan and Lang-shan, they intend to lay down beacons on certain shoals in that neighbourhood, so that vessels, seeing the position of these dangers, may be able to avoid them. Be it known, therefore, that these beacons must not be injured or destroyed by any of the officers or soldiers of the Celestial Kingdom who may be in that neighbourhood; and those who commit any act of violence, or do not conform to this order, may be arrested by the officers of Great Britain, who will produce (this paper as their) warrant, and will deliver the offenders so arrested to the authorities of the Celestial Kingdom for punishment. If, however, these beacons should be disturbed by people personating officers or soldiers of the Celestial Kingdom, no responsibility will attach to the latter in that case.

[*Note.*—Faulty construction renders the meaning of one or two of the passages in the above letter somewhat indistinct.]

No. 7.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 30, 1861.

I HAVE laid before Lord John Russell your letters of the 30th of March, the 26th of April, and the 13th and 28th of May, inclosing copies of despatches from Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope reporting the measures taken by him for opening the Yang-tze-kiang river to foreign trade; and I am directed by his Lordship to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that he is of opinion that Sir James Hope should be informed that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the steps which he so judiciously took for carrying out that important measure, and that they have learned with satisfaction the able and zealous assistance which from his reports he appears to have received from Commander Aplin, of Her Majesty's ship "Corromandel," and other officers of Her Majesty's naval forces, and from Messrs. Parkes and Forrest, of Her Majesty's Civil Service.

I am, &c.

(Signed) Shri Brihad Bharti

E. HAMMOND.

CHINA.

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Opening of the
Yang-tze-kiang River to Foreign Trade.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1861.*

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.